

river environment within the Middle Rio Grande Basin, and will result in conservation, recreation, and other public benefits.

Third, the bill sets a goal to achieve, within three years of the date of enactment of this legislation, quantifiable improvements in irrigation efficiencies through the incorporation of measures such as lining canals and ditches, and the use of low-flow or drip irrigation systems and other modern hydrological technologies.

Fourth, the bill directs the Secretary to cooperate with the State of New Mexico, water use organizations, and affected landowners to develop and implement a comprehensive program to identify, remove, and control salt cedar vegetation in the flood plain of the Rio Grande River and its tributaries, and to replant and reestablish native vegetation if appropriate.

Fifth, the bill authorizes grants for basic research on technological solutions for accessing new sources of water including, but not limited to, desalinization, and the purification of brackish and other types of unpalatable water. Furthermore, the bill authorizes grants for basic research to increase water efficiency. For example, Los Alamos National Labs, located in my district, is working to improve technology so that less water will be required in manufacturing computer microchips. And, the bill authorizes funds to conduct studies to quantify the water needs, requirements and rights of tribes and pueblos in the Middle Rio Grande Basin.

Finally, the bill confirms the original intentions of Congress as set forth in the Colorado River Storage Project Act of 1956, and the San Juan-Chama Project Act 1962. These Acts set forth the principle purposes underlying the furnishing of federal water supplies in New Mexico, including water for municipal, domestic, and industrial uses, and for the conservation of, and I quote from the original authorizing legislation, "the scenery, the natural, historic, and archaeologic objects, and the wildlife" on lands affected by the project, and "to mitigate losses of, and improve conditions for, the propagation of fish and wildlife."

We are in the midst of a very serious drought, and in New Mexico and across the west. Our water resources are over-allocated, and an exploding growth in population is stretching these resources to the limits. This situation is compounded by a water infrastructure that is inefficient, outdated, and insufficient to meet our current needs.

My bill deals with these realities and many other crucial issues. It sets up incentives to conserve our water resources and develop collaborative solutions at the local level. It restores and protects the Rio Grande River and the surrounding Bosque, and encourages technological solutions for new sources of water and methods to harness such technology to increase water efficiency.

Considering the above, if we do not focus collaboratively and make every effort possible to conserve our water, I believe that New Mexico, and similarly situated western states, will continue to confront similar, if not worse, water scarcity problems indefinitely. We need greater and more conscientious efforts on the part of water users to conserve this precious commodity. And, these users must become more accountable for water waste. My bill provides the incentives to conserve our water resources to ensure that all New Mexicans will have water to use in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I introduce this legislation as a first step to solve a critical problem. We need to act now to ensure sustainable water management and conservation in New Mexico. I invite and welcome the support of my colleagues in the New Mexico Congressional Delegation as we continue to confront this problem together.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER PRIVACY AND IDENTITY THEFT PREVENTION ACT OF 2003"

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, use of Social Security numbers is rampant. When Social Security numbers were created in 1936, their only purpose was to track a worker's earnings so that Social Security benefits could be calculated. But today, we literally have a culture of dependence on Social Security numbers.

Businesses and governments use the number as the primary way of identifying individuals. All of us know how difficult it is to conduct even the most mundane transactions without having to provide our Social Security number first. It's no wonder identity theft has become the fastest growing white collar crime.

Worse yet, terrorists, including those responsible for the September 11th attacks, misuse SSNs in order to assimilate into our society.

Barely a day goes by without hearing more examples of the truly devastating effects of identity theft. Just this month, at a Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security hearing, we learned about a widow whose husband died in the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center—an illegal immigrant used her deceased husband's Social Security number to get a driver's license and to work. We also heard about individuals whose credit was ruined, who were arrested for crimes they did not commit, and who spent years and hundreds or even thousands of dollars out of their own pockets trying to clear their names because of identity theft often facilitated by obtaining the individual's Social Security number.

Concerns about identity theft are increasing dramatically. According to the Federal Trade Commission, identity theft is the number one consumer complaint—amounting to 43 percent of complaints received in 2002. In fact, my state, Florida, is sixth in the nation in the number of identity theft victims per 100,000 people.

Clearly, there is need for a comprehensive law to better protect the privacy of Social Security numbers and protect the American public from being victimized. Today, I re-introduce the "Social Security Number Privacy and Identity Theft Prevention Act of 2003," which is similar to bipartisan legislation introduced during the last Congress. In the public and private sector, the bill would restrict the sale and public display of Social Security numbers, limit dissemination of Social Security numbers by credit reporting agencies, make it more difficult for businesses to deny services if a customer refuses to provide his or her Social Security number and establish civil and criminal penalties for violations.

Based on the thoughtful comments we have received, this new legislation reflects a small number of fair and appropriate modifications, including the following:

In response to concerns about potentially preventing necessary disclosures of the SSN and the impact on businesses, customers, and the economy, the U.S. Attorney General will be able to authorize the sale, purchase and display of SSNs only when necessary and with restrictions to assure the Social Security number would not be used to commit fraud or crime and to prevent risk of individual harm.

Based on feedback from employee benefit plan administrators, the legislation makes clear that sale and purchase of Social Security numbers does not include its submission for administering employee benefits.

In response to concerns regarding vulnerabilities in the Social Security Administration's process of issuing Social Security numbers, the bill tightens controls by requiring a photo ID; raising the standards for issuing Social Security numbers to babies; and restricting reissuance of Social Security number cards.

In response to concerns about the need for stronger, clearer penalties for SSN misuse, the legislation provides enhanced criminal penalties for repeat offenders and for misuse associated with drug trafficking, crimes of violence, and terrorism. The legislation provides criminal penalties for Social Security employees who sell Social Security numbers or cards, as well as for individuals who sell their own Social Security number to another.

Congress must act to protect the very number it requires each of us to obtain and use throughout our lifetime. Providing for uses of Social Security numbers that benefit the public while protecting these numbers from being used by criminals, or even terrorists, is a complex balancing act. This bill achieves that balance by ensuring Social Security numbers are assigned accurately, exchanged only when necessary, and protected from indiscriminate disclosure. I urge Members to co-sponsor this important legislation.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION'S CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, today it is my honor to commend the 50th anniversary of the American Political Science Association's Congressional Fellowship Program. This program provides academic political scientists, journalists, and members of the executive branch invaluable learning experiences about how Congress works from the inside. In turn, the fellows bring their unique professional expertise and fresh perspectives to Congressional offices.

When I first arrived in Congress back in 2001, an APSA fellow, Amy Black, worked in my office and helped me research and write legislation. Amy's work was a great benefit to our office, and her time in my office gave her new insights for her teaching and academic research. I hope other Members will avail

themselves of this excellent opportunity to benefit from the many ways APSA fellows can contribute to their offices.

I congratulate APSA for the past half a century of providing an innovative learning experience, and look forward to many more decades of this important cooperative effort.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE 29TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH
OCCUPATION OF CYPRUS

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 29th anniversary of the Turkish invasion and occupation of northern Cyprus. On July 20, 1974, Turkey invade Cyprus and Turkish forces occupied more than one-third of the island nation, in clear violation of international law.

Today, thousands of Turkish soldiers, armed with the latest weapons, are stationed in the occupied area, making it one of the most militarized regions in the world.

Eighty-five thousand Turks have been brought over from Turkey to colonize the occupied area with the aim of changing the demography of the island and controlling the political situation. The Greek Cypriot community that remains enclaved within the occupied villages continues to live under conditions of oppression, harassment, and deprivation. For 29 years, divided by a 113-mile barbed wire fence that runs across the island, Greek Cypriots were prohibited from visiting the northern Turkish-occupied towns and communities where their families had lived for generations.

Since 1974, the United Nations has been trying to encourage a solution to the Cyprus problem. U.N. Secretary Kofi Annan has sponsored proximity talks between the President of Cyprus, Glafcos Clerides, and Rauf Denktash, the self-proclaimed leader of the occupied area. Unfortunately, those talks were suspended due to Denktash's abrupt departure from the negotiating table.

In January 2002, U.N.-sponsored direct negotiations between the Greek and Turkish sides finally resumed. Later that year, Secretary-General Annan presented a comprehensive new plan aimed at reunifying Cyprus. Unfortunately, unlike the Government of Cyprus, which promptly accepted the Annan Plan as a basis for negotiations, the Turkish side rejected the plan. Furthermore, the newly elected Cypriot President, Tassos Papadopoulos, accepted Annan's proposal to submit the U.N. proposal to a referendum. Denktash, however, rejected a referendum, thereby denying the people in the occupied areas a chance to determine their future.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has a national interest in fostering peace and stability in the eastern Mediterranean region. We as a nation cannot continue to pretend our NATO partner is not in clear violation of international law for its continued illegal occupation of its neighbor.

We in the United States pride ourselves for our respect for fundamental freedoms. Human rights norms are the cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy. The war on terrorism and our efforts to restore democracy in Afghanistan and

Iraq are centered on those principles. As we lead international efforts to rout out terrorists and dictators that usurp fundamental principles of justice and human rights, we should remain committed to finding a just and durable settlement to the Cyprus problem. An important first step to that commitment is our strong opposition to Turkey's 29-year occupation of Cyprus.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF SPORTS ILLUSTRATED
AND AMERICA'S SPORTS ILLUS-
TRATED: 50 YEARS, 50 STATES, 50
SPORTS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Sports Illustrated, as they celebrate 50 years of being America's most respected and popular sports publication. I also stand to recognize America's Sports Illustrated. 50 Years, 50 States, 50 Sports, a yearlong, nationwide celebration building on the premise of sports being an enormous force for good and a major catalyst in giving Americans a sense of community.

Sports Illustrated is one of the most respected voices in sports media, a magazine that consistently sets the national agenda for debate and discussion. This magazine is an original American brand that each week tells us about ourselves through the prism of sports.

Time Inc. founder Henry Luce's dream that, "America will have a great National Sports Weekly" officially became a reality on August 16, 1954, with the launch of Sports Illustrated. In the years that have followed, Sports Illustrated has lived up to Luce's lofty notion. Americans turn to Sports Illustrated for a definitive word and the defining photographs, for the most in-depth analysis in sports.

Let us support Sports Illustrated as they launch their nationwide multi-media program: America's Sports Illustrated. 50 Years, 50 States, 50 Sports. This nationwide celebration consists of weekly state-specific sections in the magazine and four special 50th issues; a grassroots mobile marketing tour that will visit sporting events that are unique to the state being visited; a comprehensive and interactive web presence; and a community sports outreach program to enhance the quality of sports in America's communities through the YMCA of the USA and the National Recreation and Park Association. Let us commemorate America's most respected and popular Sports publication on their Golden Anniversary.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Sports Illustrated as it turns 50 in 2004 and celebrates its anniversary with the most ambitious initiative in the history of the magazine.

THE RAILROAD COMPETITION ACT
OF 2003

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by Representatives CHRIS JOHN, DAVID VITTER, and EARL POMEROY to introduce the Railroad Competition Act of 2003, a bill designed to restore a measure of competition to our nation's freight rail marketplace. This bill, I believe, captures the true intentions of railroad deregulation.

Like all Americans, Mr. Speaker, I want our national railroad industry to remain the most efficient in the world. Indeed, our railroad system is a model for other national systems. My home state of Louisiana in particular relies heavily on efficient railroads to deliver product to market and provide the feedstock for our manufacturing base. Without reliable rail service, Louisiana—and all of America—would be economically hamstrung.

Congress deregulated the railroad industry in 1980 when it passed the Staggers Act. This law revitalized the industry, built efficiencies in the system, and bolstered the railroads as a critical component to America's transportation infrastructure. As Chairman of the Louisiana House Committee on Transportation and Highways, I observed closely the implementation and success of the Act.

However, one lingering element of the Staggers Act provides for "differential pricing," which in effect allows railroads to "price gouge" customers served by a single railroad in order to help make up for revenue that is lost to customers served by more than one railroad. In other words railroads can overcharge a customer where the railroad is a monopoly to help recover the revenue it loses in a competitive, multiple-railroad environment.

Prior to the Staggers Act, the federal government administered the finances of railroads by imposing price controls. But by allowing railroads to institutionalize price gouging, are we not continuing the practice of price controls? Indeed, is differential pricing the thriving legacy of regulatory control? I believe it is. I assert that differential pricing is no more "deregulation" than the artificially imposed government price controls that existed before 1980.

I do not believe Congress intended to institutionalize price gouging when it passed the Staggers Act in 1980. Rather, the Staggers Act was an attempt to revive an important industry in America's economy. It was not enacted to allow the industry to thrive at its customers' expense. When the 108th Congress reflects back on the success of the Staggers Act, we can indeed take pride in "getting it right." Congress achieved its goal of resuscitating the ailing railroad industry, but Congress did not intend to sustain the life of this industry at the growing, unfair expense of other industries.

When Congress passed the Staggers Act in 1980 there were over 40 Class I railroads competing for business. Today, after over 50 mergers and consolidations there are only 7 Class I railroads in North America and four of them control over 95 percent of the railroad business.